

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 08287 021411Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 780

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 8287

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, US

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 292957

1. MADE POINTS REFTEL TO KHADDAM'S PRIVATE SECRETARY 1200L
DECEMBER 2. HE WILL TRANSMIT THEM TO FONMIN AND ALSO GET
COPY TO PRESIDENCY TODAY.

2. KHAASSAM STILL IN HOSPITAL FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT YESTERDAY. PRIVATE SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT
KHAASSAM WOUND RELATIVELY LIGHT AND THAT HE SHOULD BE
SHORTLY RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL.

COMMENT:

IN LIGHT SARKIS' REACTION THAT HE CANNOT FIELD A
SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH LEBANESE FORCE IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE,
WE SEEM TO BE AT NEW IMPASSE. IT SEEMS HIGHLY DESIRABLE
TO SHUT DOWN TYRE PORT ASAP AND INTERDICT USE OF NABATIYAH
AIRSTRIPE AS WELL. A PACKAGE SECURITY PROPOSAL UTILIZING
LEBANESE POLICE/GENDARMERIE TOGETHER WITH NON-SYRIAN
ELEMENTS OF THE ASF, AN INTENSIFIED NAVAL BLOCKAGE OF TYRE,
SAIQA AND SYRIAN-CONTROLLED ELEMENTS OF PALESTINIAN LIBERA-
TION ARMY MIGHT MANAGE THIS. THESE, I
SUBMIT WOULD BE ILL-COORDINATED, HALF MEASURES COMPARED WITH
A (MILITARILY) RELATIVELY UNCOMPLICATED OPERATION OF DEPLOYING
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SYRIAN FORCES INTO TYRE AND NABATIYAH TO CLOSE DOWN FEDAYEEN

OPERATIONS IN THOSE TWO POINTS. BUT IT MIGHT BE WORTH-
WHILE EXPLORING THE IDEA OF SUCH A PACKAGE WITH SARKIS
AND THE ISRAELIS.

4. THE SYRIANS ARE NOT PRESENTLY PUSHING TO BE ALLOWED TO DEPLOY
THEIR OWN FORCES. THIS MAY REFLECT THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO
BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR DEVELOPMENTS WHICH THEY COULD
NOT CONTROL LIKE FURTHER SMALL SCALE CROSS BORDER FIRING
SUCH AS STRUCK NAHARIYAH NOVEMBER 21.

5. IN ANY CASE, DANGER IN DELAYING DEPLOYMENT TO SOUTH, IT
SEEMS TO ME, IS THAT PALESTINIANS MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
THIS PERIOD TO LUANCH LARGER SCALE ACTION OR AT LEAST
ENTRECH THEMSELVES DEEPER AND MAKE THEIR EVENTUAL
NEUTRALIZATION THAT MUCH BLOODIER FOR SARKIS AND SYRIA TO
ACCOMPLISH. I HOPE WE CAN SOON CONVINCE THE
ISRAELIS TO SANCTION ASF ENTRY INTO AT LEAST TYRE IF NOT
NABATIYAH.

6. SUGGEST PASS BEIRUT AND TEL AVIV.
MURPHY

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